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United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/89, contains the text of replies received, from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Japan, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea, with regard to the requests contained in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 69/86, paragraph 4 of Assembly resolution 69/87 and paragraphs 26 and 27 of Assembly resolution 69/88 in response to the notes verbales sent by the Secretary-General to Israel and all other Member States on 14 May 2015. No information has been received from Member States regarding the implementation of resolution 69/89.

* A/70/150.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 69/89 on Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues.

2. On 14 May 2015, the Secretary-General drew the attention of the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations to General Assembly resolutions 69/86 to 69/89, with the request that the Permanent Representative inform him by 10 July 2015 of any steps that his Government had taken or envisaged taking in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolutions.

3. On the same date, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all other Member States, drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of resolutions 69/86 to 69/89 and requesting information by 10 July 2015 concerning any action taken or envisaged in relation to the implementation of those resolutions.

4. Replies were received from Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Japan, Pakistan and the Republic of Korea with regard to the requests contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 69/86, paragraph 4 of resolution 69/87 and paragraphs 26 and 27 of resolution 69/88. No information has been received from Member States regarding the implementation of resolution 69/89.

II. Replies received from Member States

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[22 July 2015]

In the wake of the 50 days of armed conflict between Israel and Gaza (in July and August 2014), Argentina undertook, at the International Conference on Palestine and Reconstructing Gaza, held in Cairo on 12 October 2014, to carry out a set of actions, which are now being implemented, in the following areas: work with displaced persons, water and sanitation, health, the elimination of unexploded ordnance, family farming, repair of the social and community fabric through sport and culture, psychosocial care, comprehensive care of young children at risk, a project to boost the fishing industry, a project on plant and animal health, livestock-raising in dry climates, forensic medicine and anthropology, a project on cooperation in health services for armed forces, improvement of the primary health-care system, improvement of immunization strategies and incorporation of new vaccines, awareness-raising about water-related illnesses, prevention of haemolytic uremic syndrome, and conservation agriculture in risk zones.

In December 2014, Argentina implemented a special humanitarian visa programme for foreigners affected by the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic (the "Syria Programme"), which aims to provide a practical response to the serious humanitarian crisis still ravaging that country.

The programme's beneficiaries include not only Syrian nationals and their relatives, but Palestinian nationals as well, provided that they were ordinarily resident or had resided in the Syrian Arab Republic and received assistance from UNRWA.

In line with its position on this issue, Argentina has supported various initiatives in international forums aimed at alleviating the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people.

Australia

[Original: English]
[9 July 2015]

In 2014-2015, Australia provided $A 36 million to UNRWA, which was the largest amount that Australia has ever given to UNRWA in one financial year.

The amount of $A 36 million was made up of $A 20 million to the General Fund, $A 300,000 to the Department of Planning for monitoring and evaluation studies and $A 15.7 million for emergency and shelter assistance in Gaza ($A 10 million to the Gaza flash appeal for 2014 and $A 5.7 million to the occupied Palestinian territory emergency appeal for 2015).

Belgium

[Original: French]
[10 July 2015]

Belgium, like all the States members of the European Union, voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions 69/86, 69/87, 69/88 and 69/89, adopted on 5 December 2014. It also aligned itself with those States in sponsoring two of those resolutions, namely resolution 69/86, entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees", and resolution 69/89, entitled "Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues".

Among the contributions of Belgium in response to requests for aid and assistance for UNRWA are the following:

With regard to paragraph 4 of resolution 69/86, calling upon donors to strengthen their efforts to meet the anticipated needs of UNRWA, and paragraphs 26 and 27 of resolution 69/88, urging donors to support the Agency by providing or increasing contributions, Belgium is a long-standing financial supporter of UNRWA, which became one of its humanitarian partners after the publication of the Royal Decree of 19 April 2014. In 2014, Belgium remained in thirteenth place among donors to the regular budget (General Fund) and ranked sixteenth when all funding sources are taken into account. It contributed mainly to the regular budget, thereby enabling UNRWA to perform the core missions of basic education, basic health care, relief and social security, in accordance with the Agency's mandate. In 2015, Belgium committed to a three-year funding package in a total amount of €18,750,000. Annual instalments of €6,250,000 will be paid in 2015, 2016 and 2017. That contribution reflects Belgium's desire to provide flexible and predictable humanitarian funding.

With regard to the appeal in paragraph 4 of resolution 69/87 for contributions to UNRWA and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, Belgium has approved, in addition to the multi-year contribution of €18,750,000 to the regular budget of UNRWA, a financial framework in an amount of €3 million for humanitarian projects relating to food security, resilience, health and protection, to be implemented by non-governmental organizations in the occupied Palestinian

territories. The call for proposals closed on 6 July 2015. Five project proposals were received, in a total amount of €5,767,908. The project selection process is ongoing.

Japan

[Original: English]
[1 July 2015]

Japan's contribution to UNRWA so far amounts to approximately $714 million and the contribution in fiscal year 2014 reached a record high of $45 million. In the current year, Japan has provided emergency grant aid of $200,000 through UNRWA for refugees affected by the cold wave in February. In March, Japan disbursed $32 million to supplement the contribution for fiscal year 2014, as well as $1.7 million as the voluntary contribution for fiscal year 2015 in May (Japan's fiscal year starts in April and ends in March).

Pakistan

[Original: English]
[29 May 2015]

Pakistan's commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause, the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian refugees remains its constant policy objective.

The Government of Pakistan supports the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) through an annual contribution. Last year, in the wake of the humanitarian disaster caused by the destruction of lives, property and livelihoods in Gaza owing to a military assault by Israeli occupation forces, the Government of Pakistan provided an additional $1 million to UNRWA in support of its relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Pakistan continues to believe that, while humanitarian assistance is necessary, the only viable solution to the conflict is through the creation of a viable, independent and contiguous State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital.

Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[10 July 2015]

The Government of the Republic of Korea has contributed $60,000 in 2013, $98,000 in 2014 and $187,000 in 2015 to the budget of UNRWA.

In addition to the aforementioned contributions, the Government of the Republic of Korea has contributed $500,000 in 2014 for reconstruction in Gaza, $500,000 in 2015 for assistance to Palestinian refugees in Syria and $300,000 in 2015 for assistance to Palestinian refugees in Gaza as its contributions to the non-regular budget of UNRWA.